…It's Back-to-School Time! Get ready for the new school year by maintaining your health insurance with NY State of Health

Having health insurance is critical for children to thrive at school and in life. Children with health insurance are more likely to complete high school and graduate college compared with their peers who don't have access to care. Health coverage for kids benefits everyone.

Studies have shown that children with health coverage are less likely to miss school due to illness and are better prepared to learn, meaning fewer missed days of work for parents. Fewer missed school days may also allow kids and teens to stay involved with after-school activities like clubs and sports.

If your child doesn't have health insurance, apply for coverage through NY State of Health today! Nearly 99 percent of NY State of Health enrollees qualify for free or low-cost insurance that covers important benefits, including doctor visits, immunizations, mental health services, prescriptions, and hospital care. Child Health Plus provides additional dental and vision coverage.

Consumers can enroll in a health plan by:

- Calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
  - Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  - Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Logging onto the website at nystateofhealth.ny.gov
- Speaking with an enrollment assistor. Find an assistor here.

If your child is already insured, be prepared for important changes.

Starting in Spring 2023, New York State will restart eligibility checks for enrollees in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan. This means enrollees may need to take action to renew their health insurance. If your family has health insurance through any of these programs, there are things you can do now to prepare for the upcoming renewal process.

1. **Sign up for text alerts.** Sign up to receive SMS/MMS Text alerts from NY State of Health so you don't miss important health insurance reminders and updates, including when it's time to renew your coverage. To subscribe, text START to 1-866-988-0327. Learn more at https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/COVID-19-Changes.

 2. **Make sure your address is correct**. Make sure NY State of Health or your local Medicaid office has your current mailing address, phone number and email address so you can be contacted about your health insurance.

- If you have insurance through with NY State of Health, call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220), log into your account at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, or contact an enrollment assistor. Find one at https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/findassistor.

- If you have Medicaid through your county's Medicaid office or through New York City's Human Resources Administration (HRA), contact your local office to update your address and contact information.

3. **Visit https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/COVID-19-Changes**. This page is updated regularly to ensure you have access to the information you need.